

January

Magic Lantern Society
US and Canada

NEWS 2015



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

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Greetings fellow Members

With 2015 beginning, I wanted to take a few moments to reflect on the past year and look towards the future.

You may not have been counting, but 2014 was the 35th year of our official Society publication. It was 1978 when Joe and Alice Koch first started recruiting members – starting with 25 individuals. In 1979, 35 years ago from the Spring of 2014, the first ML Bulletin was issued - edited by Leora Wood Wells, the mother of our current Gazette editor Kentwood Wells. The volunteer efforts of past officers, editors, and members has kept our Society strong and made the Society's remarkable history possible.

This past July our 16th International Convention was hosted by Dick Balzer and his wife Patti Bellinger at their home in Boston and what a wonderful time it was. We had a record number of national and international attendees – over 80 – to experience, learn, and share their knowledge. With a relaxing post-convention visit hosted by Debbie and Terry Borton we could not have asked for anything more.

To Members of the Society

Our membership remains steady, with new members joining us each year. Efforts continue to make our presence known through an updated website, ongoing monthly email newsletters, and a new facebook page thanks to the volunteer efforts of Larry Cederblom and Sue Truman.

Terry Borton noted at the Convention that there is record interest nationally and internationally in research in our field, which helps keep interest in our Society strong. And those of you that “Took the Pledge” at the Convention to author an article for the Gazette – well, you know who you are. Get those articles in to Kentwood to help him continue producing such high quality Gazettes.

Looking Ahead

For a Society that has always had “Canada” in its name, we now have our first Canadian officer thanks to David Evans. There was beginning discussion from some of our Canadian members to host a convention in Quebec. We also had an offer from Brian Rodgers to potentially host the 2018 Convention at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. It shows the strong spirit of our members to have a record number of offers to host conventions well into the future.


Thanks to Steve Barnes and Sandy Cranfill plans are well underway for our 2016 Convention in New Orleans, with the dates of October 6-9 confirmed. With this much advance notice, you have no excuse to miss what will surely be a wonderful time and a chance to visit New Orleans.

Keep sharing your stories, questions, upcoming shows/events, and treasured finds with Larry for the e-pub, it is with this sharing that we all learn and grow.

If you wonder how you can be more involved and help with Society operations, just ask one of the officers. Help with maintaining the website, editing the epub, convention planning assistance, and reaching out to new and prospective members is always welcome.

Best wishes for a safe and happy 2015. May your lantern shine bright throughout the year!

President,
Ron Easterday



Magic Lantern

participation
music
Science fiction
entertainment
Advertising
biennial magic
images
projected
live
audience
lantern

2015



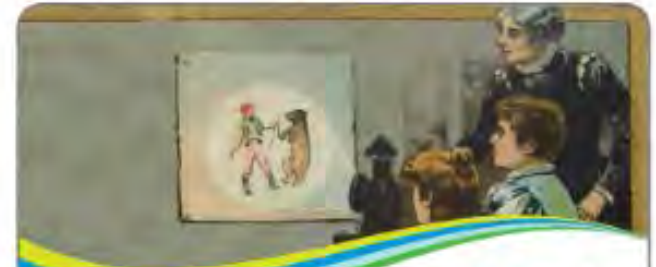
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The curious and UNUSUAL

Something New this Year!

A chance to share anything you might have about lanterns, slides, shows or showmen that could be **Curious and Unusual**.

The first is an article from a 1906 newspaper, a curious item about smuggled goods.

Please share any information or item you have about this subject. Send to
LARRY

\$300 in 1906

\$7,587.05 in 2014

The Evening statesman., May 22, 1906,
About The Evening statesman. (Wala Wala, Wala 1 1903-1910)
Image provided by: Washington State Library, Olympia, WA

Philadelphian's Weight Drops to 130 Pounds as Smuggled Goods Are Removed.

NEW YORK, May 22.—When Louis Martin of Philadelphia, came down the gang plank of the French liner, Lorraine today, he looked as though he weighed at least 400 pounds. After the customs officers got through with him he looked as though he weighed 130.

Investigation showed that Martin had wound around his body 1666 feet of celluloid photographic film and had sewed about his arms, waist and legs 28 dozen glass magic lantern slides. After all these articles were removed from his person, Martin shrank visibly, both mentally and physically.

According to the customs officers he confessed that he was trying to get the goods into the country without paying duty thereon, because as he is alleged to have said, he is a poor man, and wished to start up a store in Philadelphia with these goods as a basis of stock. The goods were seized. They are valued at about \$300.

Share Your Information! What Do You Know About This Slide?

From Ron Easterday
for
Curtis Hagen

Any information would be greatly appreciated. I also buy/collect any of the slides that have oilfield images if any members have duplicates they would like to sell.

Thank you!
Curtis Hagen
Roughneck City LLC
(888) 641-0217
(580) 526-3953

curtis@classicoilfieldphotography.com

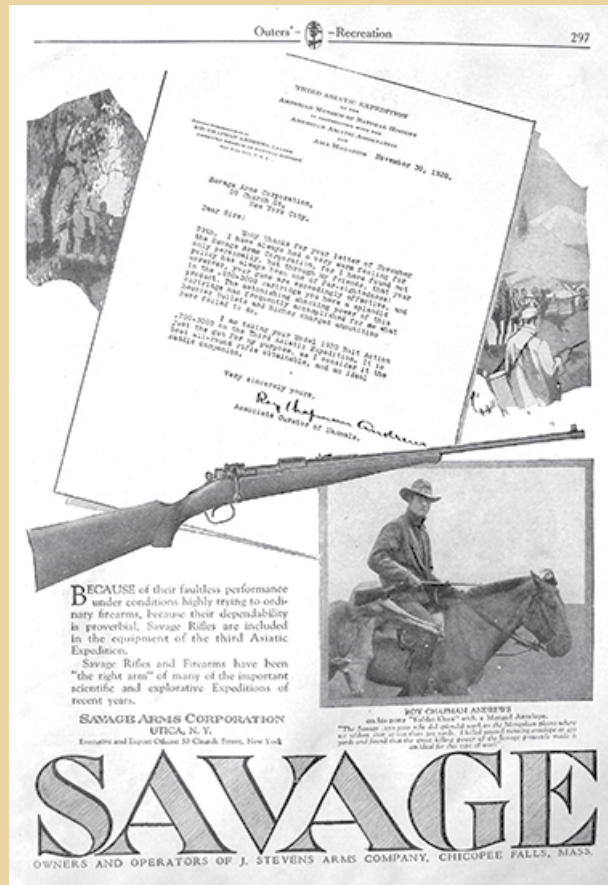


Who Endorsed What?

By Terry Borton

Last Month's question was:
Sorry, no sex.
Wild animals.
So who promotes what?

Chautauqua lecturer Roy Chapman Andrews was an American explorer and naturalist who was also director of the American Museum of Natural History. He led expeditions through the Gobi Desert and Mongolia, and brought back the first-known fossil dinosaur eggs.



There he is at bottom right on his pony "Kublai Khan," Savage rifle in hand.

"The Savage .250-3000 rifle did splendid work on the Mongolian plains where we

seldom shot at less than 300 yards. I killed several running antelope at 450 yards and found that the great killing power of the Savage projectile made it ideal for this kind of work."

And for next time, the last time, my all-time favorite—winner of the grand prize for out-of-the-box Mad Man thinking:

Any rifle company could tout its rifle by photographing any explorer on horseback, rifle in hand. But how would you set your rifle company apart, especially if you were the Daisy Company, selling BB guns? Whose image would you use, in what setting?

Email: TBorton@MagicLanternShows.com

Spokane City Parks, Lantern Slides, 1900-1930

<http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>



This collection of 123 glass lantern slides shows the City of Spokane and Spokane Parks between 1900 and 1930.



Teepee 1910-1920, [photographer unknown], City of Spokane, Lantern Slides, 1900-1930, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>



Bowl and Pitcher, 1910-1920, [photographer unknown], City of Spokane, Lantern Slides, 1900-1930, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>

By
**Sarah
Dellmann**



This page features interviews with people who do research on the magic lantern. Initially launched with the aim to bridge the gap between academic research and collectors, this series now expands its range to anyone who does research in order to find out things around and about the magic lantern, be it for academic work or for professional purposes, out of interest in local history or out of love for the material. Archivists, curators, collectors, and performers will be interviewed alike.

Did you find out something interesting when preparing a show? Did you discover yet unknown aspects about a lantern slide that you sold, bought or prepared for exhibition? Have you been busy in tracing a showperson, a venue, local lantern history, lantern technology or a manufacturer? Tell us what you learned and how you went about it! If you do academic research, tell us what the magic lantern helps you to explain!

If you know someone that should be interviewed or if you have something to share, send an email to Sarah:
s.dellmann@uu.nl

Interview with Annet Duller



A lantern performance in 2014.

Where do you work and what is your main interest of your research?

I have worked in many fields, but of main importance for my magic lantern passion was the time I worked at the Dutch Film museum in Amsterdam, now EYE Film Institute Netherlands. My task was to describe and to date the lantern slides and other pre-cinema material held in their collection. There, surrounded by specialists on early cinema and associated image material, I have used every second to learn more and to refine my knowledge about the slides and the objects. This job was a great support to open the doors to many interesting archives and magic lantern slides collections. Now I am retired but I still give Magic Lantern shows on request. I also work with/ assist at the Magic Lantern Galantee Show of Herman Bollaert.

How do you work? With which sources do you work?

As an artist, I am interested primarily in the images on the slides. Alongside the content, I am much interested in the techniques of how these slides were made. This is an important factor to date the slides. I collected a lot of images from internet and added them to my own database. Interesting sources are museum websites, for instance of the Cinémathèque of Paris; private collections such as Francois Binétruy's one in Versailles and the George Eastman House in Rochester, New York. Also, I collect information from the magic Lantern web resource Lucerna. In Holland the Rijks museum has digitized their entire collection of art, painting and early prints, as well as their collection of magic lantern slides and made them freely available on the internet – an amazing source especially for early images on



The Christmas performance of 2014, projecting a slide from The story of the Other Wise Man

continued next page

Magic Lantern In Academic Research

Interview of Annet Duller continued



Working on 'Dutch Perspectives': Reconstruction of a magic lantern scene by Van Staveren in de Church of Goude (Goudse kerk). Renske Wagenaar; Marieke Wagenaar; Annet en John Drop
Photo: Frederike Drop.

the slides. My further knowledge is based on the publications of the Magic Lantern Society; of original printed material and the communication with the MLS-members and conversations with other collectors. There is always someone who looks for the same information and cooperative enough to share his or hers experiences.

When and how did the Magic Lantern appear in your life?

My first lantern came with an exceptional box of slides, I had to buy them together from an antique dealer for a lot of money. This box literally drove around in a flooded basement

that I browsed through while standing on a ladder - not an uncommon situation in the Netherlands since many places are below sea level...

With a stick, I pulled the box towards me so I could see what was inside. I had absolutely no idea what it was, but as a puppeteer I immediately saw that it has to do with theatre: In the box were a number of hand painted effect lantern slides. The images were designed to be animated with delicate strings, pulleys and handles. The lantern with its long tube and without a lens could not be used at all. At that moment I did not know that I needed a biunial to project them in a proper way. But I found out and so I started with a simple lantern and then gained more experience and increased my skills over. To me, a magic lantern is rather an instrument than an object of study or to collect. Although I have that biunial to work with, I appreciate any fine lantern without feeling the urge of buy it. I am more interested in the possibilities of a lantern to create an alternating show such as the light source and the focal distance.

What do you wish to find out with your research? What do you wish to achieve? Why is it interesting?

With my research I would like to restore the important place of projected communication in earlier days. Given both the seriousness and the jokes of the magic lantern slides set, I have found that the difference between people of earlier centuries and nowadays are not that big as one might expect. This gives food for thought as we try to interpret the motifs of the slides and the motivations of people in the past.

As a result of my researches I was asked by



The slide "Marieke bij de pilaar" from a set by Dutch lantern producer Van Staveren

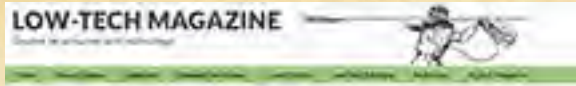
WillemAlbert Wagenaar to participate in a publication about the early Dutch media, their practise and meaning in connection with the magic lantern; Dutch slide producers and performers. This information went into the book "Dutch perspectives" that I completed together with Margreet Wagenaar-Fisher. This book presents the relevance of the Netherlands for the (early) magic lantern craze. It just came out and you can order it via the European Magic Lantern Society or via Margreet Wagenaar at mmwagenaar@hotmail.com.

But most of all I enjoy myself if I can surprise an audience with the sense of humor, artistry and ingenuity from a period that is seen all too easily overlooked but nevertheless has much to offer to contemporary humanity.

Get Lost in 17th, 18th and 19th Century Optical Entertainment

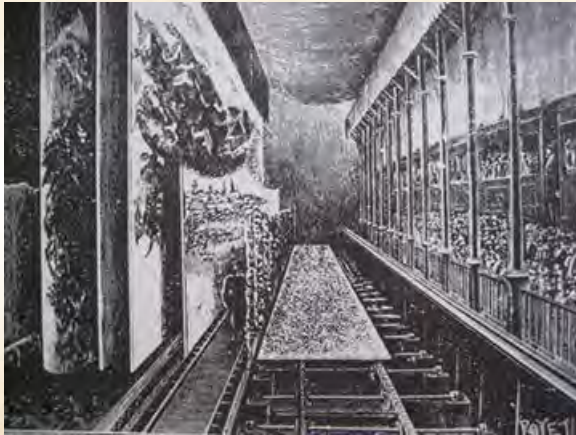
Innovative low-tech devices delivered amazing effects and fulfilled almost the same role that television, cinema and media players do today.

From



<http://www.lowtechmagazine.com/2008/03/turn-off-your-f.html>

1. THE PANORAMA



<http://www.panoramapainting.com/>

Travel was the favourite theme of these moving panoramas: spectators could be taken on a steamship voyage along the Nile, a rail journey from Moscow to Peking, an adventure to the Arctic regions or on a trip on a hot-air balloon (in this case the screen was rolled up vertically). Other popular themes included biblical or legendary stories and famous battles.

2. THE STEREOSCOPE

The stereoscope, a device that enabled two-dimensional images to be transformed into three-dimensional views.

In the 1800s, the enormously popular stereoscope occupied a central role in every

western household. A large diversity of the product was available: from handheld devices over table models to large saloon floor models for the whole family, resembling a television set.

<http://www.stereoviews.com/>



3. THE MAGIC LANTERN

The magic lantern is a most intriguing pre-cinema device. Similar to a present-day slide projector it enlarges projections from smaller transparent slides (painted or photographed).

In its simplest form, the fantascopie fulfilled the same role as the stereoscope, sharing with people stories, things and places they had never seen or heard of before. For its time, the magic lantern achieved a level of technology that has yet to be matched by today's standards.



(Image from The Luikerwaal)
http://www.luikerwaal.com/indexx_uk.htm

4. THE PEEPSHOW

The peepshow could be described as the first modern multimedia gadget. It is a box with an eyehole, through which the spectator can see a miniature scene, painted or constructed in perspective (or a combination of both).

Both the stereoscope and the magic lantern evolved out of the peepshow, which was invented around 1660 and had an even earlier ancestor in the 13th century (the perspective views of Leon Battista Alberti).



(Illustration taken from Early Visual Media)

<http://users.telenet.be/thomasweynants/vue-optique.html>

Full-Time Magic-Lantern Theater To Open Near Lancaster, PA

From Terry Borton

*Next Spring,
The American Magic-Lantern Theater
(AMLT),*

(<http://www.magiclanternshows.com/magiclanternshows.htm>) and The Amish Experience, a tour company near Lancaster, PA, will open the first permanent magic-lantern theater since the close of the Polytechnic in London 130 years ago.

The Amish Experience currently runs a half-hour multi-media performance about the Amish called Jacob's Choice (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BihWMtRHr4>) in a 150-seat theater located in Bird-in-Hand, PA. The theater is set up like an Amish barn, has three



Terry Borton performs with the triunal lantern that will be the emblem of the Magic-Lantern performances at The Plain and Fancy Theater in Bird in Hand, PA.

screens, and—believe it or not—a Pepper's Ghost effect that brings the spirits of departed Amish back to life. It caters



Debbie Borton checks out The Plain and Fancy Theater. Two of the three screens are visible. A new large screen will drop down in the center. The dark space at right is where the Pepper's Ghost effect appears during Jacob's Choice. In the future, it may also be used in lantern shows.

primarily to bus groups, and operates by request, on the hour from 10:00–5:00, 7 days a week, from May to January. Tens of thousands of people a year see the show, which has been drawing audiences for 20 years.

The magic lantern shows will share the same space and schedule, using the slides and scripts of The American Magic Lantern Theater, and AMLT's spectacular triunal lantern. Three shows are planned initially: Christmas, Old Time Religion, and Patriotic. The showmen will be experienced

performers currently on The Amish Experience staff, and will be trained by Terry Borton, AMLT's director. Music will be recorded, using the talents of Nancy Stewart, AMLT's lead singer.

"I'm tremendously excited about this venture," says Terry. "For years we've been looking for a group that we might work with on such a cooperative effort, but never found anything that seemed right. The Amish Experience has a proven track record of both creative production (how many shows do you know that have run for 20 years?), and marketing expertise. They're located in an historic area, where you

can literally look outside the theater door and see people in nineteenth-century buggies going about their daily business. And the staff seems genuinely excited about the potential of lantern shows."



Brad Igou, left, and Clinton Marshall, of Amish Experience, shows some of the laser disks that were used to produce Jacob's Choice in its early days.

A Past Introduction to the Lantern

<http://mymaushaus.wordpress.com/page/2/>

March 3, 2010

• 9:12 pm

Magic Lantern

I collect old view finders, toy cameras, and mini toy t.v. view finders. So when I saw there was a collection at the UI Special Collections called “George Elmer Magic Lantern Slide Collection,” I had to find out more.

After researching the topic I found out that the Magic Lantern or Lanterna Magica was an early prototype to the first slide projector. They were produced from the 17th up through the early 20th centuries, were the forerunners of slide projectors, used for visual entertainment in theaters and elsewhere. In the case of the “George Elmer” collection, they were used to supplement church sermons in Mississippi.

And get this, the company that sold and rented the equipment, slides, and sermon guides was out of Davenport, Iowa — the Ryan Lantern Slide Production. (UI Special Collections also has a collection devoted to the guy, Viktor Ryan, who founded the



company.) Who would have guessed! The slide series I looked at the “Starlight and Sunlight” series. The sermons that went along with it “trace thru (sic.) the ages the gradual increase of the light of the knowledge of God.” I especially liked the slides of the creation, the garden of Eden, and the fall from grace. The slides look like reproductions of lithographs and are hand tinted. Unfortunately, I didn’t have a “magic lantern” to view them with, so I had to just hold them up to the light to look at them. I would have LOVED to see them projected.



I love the theatricality of these magic lanterns, that they were used as part of performance. I am going to tuck away the idea of using these old-timey slides for a shadow puppet show or for an outdoor magic lantern party.

As Seen in The New York Times

From Sue Truman



The historians Terry and Deborah Borton devote their days to studying the Philadelphia artist Joseph Boggs Beale, who designed glass slides for magic lantern projectors from the 1880s to the 1910s. Beale filled his skies with swooping angels, and in his foregrounds he sketched rats leaping off precipices. His works presaged the transporting power of cinema.

The Bortons’ new book, “Before the Movies: American Magic-Lantern Entertainment and the Nation’s First Great Screen Artist, Joseph Boggs Beale” (John Libbey Publishing/Indiana University Press), reproduces a fraction of their memorabilia collection.

Read More at:

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/19/arts/design/of-magic-lanterns-and-screen-gems.html?smid=fb-share&_r=0

A Big Thank You to the following:

Terry Borton
Sarah Dellmann
Ron Easterday
David Evans
Sue Truman

for contributing to this months issue.

Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

If your answer is yes! Send site information or your images to Larry and they will be shared in the next E-pub newsletter.

E-mail Larry

A Special Thank You

To
**Terry Borton and
Sarah Dellmann**
for their monthly
contributions to this
news letter.

Welcome New Members

Adrian Kok

P.C. van den Brinkweg 11
Laren, North Holland
The Netherlands
Charles Dickens performer

Ann McCoy

P O Box 1907
Long Island City, NYC 11101
Adjunct professor, Yale Drama School

Roger Benischek

New Orleans, LA 70129
Pre-Cinema Museum Director

Slides Documenting the City of Pittsburgh



<http://digital.library.pitt.edu/images/pittsburgh/smokecontrol.html>

Alert!

From Lynne of Oregon:

I urgently need to get hold of a magic lantern with operating arc lamp from 1900 or a bit earlier for a play set in that year. Can you help please? Email Lynne at amethyst-216ster@gmail.com if you can.

Thanks!

Thank you!

